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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

February 15th, 1860.

Read and ordered to be printed.

REPORT

OF

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF MARYLAND,

ON

THE BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE.

REPORT

The special committee to which was referred the report of the Commissioners appointed by this State, and the State of Virginia, to retrace and mark the boundaries between the two States, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave respectfully to submit the following report thereon and the accompanying bill.

The Commissioner on the part of this State, was appointed in obedience to two acts of the General Assembly, passed January session 1852, chapter 60 and 275. The first relating to the Southeastern and the latter to the Northwestern lines of the State.

As regards the Southeastern line, your committee does not find the uncertainties declared in the above named act, chapter 60, to be existing in the boundary between Smith's Point, at the mouth of the Potomac, and the Atlantic, but on the contrary, that Maryland has always held up to the limits established in conformity with the agreement of the Commissioners empowered to fix the divisional line between Maryland and Virginia in the year 1668, and has had uninterrupted possession of the same.

This Commission defined and declared Watkins' Point to be that whole promonotory or body of land lying between Pocomoke Bay and Annemessix Bay, and being qualified to fix the bounds of Virginia and Maryland, upon a necessity for so doing, established and marked the whole boundary across the "Peninsula or Chersenese" by a line between Pocomoke River and the mouth of the sea side, beginning therefor on Pocomoke River, at a point east by compass, without allowance for variation as it then existed, from the extremest

part of the Westernmost angle of said Watkins' Point, as by them defined. The line they thus established being the present acknowledged divisional line between Worcester county, Maryland, and Accomac county, Virginia, and that consequent upon the action of these Commissioners, the divisional line across Chesapeake Bay, was, and is now known and recognised to be a line from Smith's Point at the mouth of the Potomac, to this same Westernmost angle of Watkins' Point, and these are the true limits of the State to the South and East.

As to the Northwestern line, the act of 1852, chapter 275, empowered the Governor to open a correspondence with the Governor of Virginia, in relation to retracing, establishing and marking the Western line of Maryland, beginning therefor at the Fairfax stone, at the head of the North branch of the Potomac, and running thence due North to the State of Pennsylvania. The assent of the State of Virginia to this was not obtained until March 26, 1858, when her General Assembly, passed an act responding to the wishes of the General Assembly of this State, and assenting to the running and marking of said, due North line from the Fairfax stone, to form the Western limit of this State

In obedience to these acts, the said meredian line has been run and marked at its principal prominent points, at the joint expense of the two States, under the direction of the Commissioners appointed as therein provided, by an officer of U. S. Engineers detailed by the general Government for that purpose at their request, the true direction of the line having been determined astronomically in the most thorough and accurate manner. But the appropriation on the part of this State being exhausted, the Commissioners were unable to finish the necessary computations and mapping to complete the record of the same.

Your committee being fully aware of the necessity of bringing the duties of these commissioners to a speedy termination beg leave to report the following bill:

EDWARD LONG,
J. H. GORDON,
WM. R. BARNARD,
JAMES U. DENNIS,
C. W. JACOBS.

A Bill *entitled, an Act for the establishment of the southeastern and northwestern boundary lines between this State and the State of Virginia, and making further appropriations to complete the survey and marking of the same.*

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland, That the line established by the agreement of the Commissioners authorised in the year 1668, to fix the bounds of Virginia and Maryland, is hereby declared to be the true line of boundary between the two States on the Eastern Shore of Chesapeake Bay; and that the true divisional line across Chesapeake Bay is a straight line from Smith's Point, at the mouth of the Potomac, to the westernmost angle of the body of land defined by the aforesaid Commissioners, as Watkins' Point.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the northwestern line of this State is a line commencing at Fairfax Stone, at the head of the north branch of the Potomac River, and running thence due north to the southern line of the State of Pennsylvania, as surveyd in the year 1859 by the Commissioners appointed by the States of Maryland and Virginia in conformity with the laws passed by the said States for that purpose.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the sum of dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and the same is hereby appropriated for the payment of this State's proportion of such expenses as may be required to complete the survey and record of said lines; and that the compensation of the commissioner on the part of this State and that of the officer of United States Engineer employed under him, for services already rendered and to be rendered, shall be such reasonable compensation as the Governor may in his discretion allow; provided, the same does not exceed a yearly salary of two thousand dollars to the former and of one thousand dollars to the latter, and the Comptroller is hereby directed to issue his warrant or warrants, upon the Treasurer, in pursuance of the Governor's order therefor, for the payment of such sums of money as may be hereby required.

Sec. 4. And be it enacted, That this act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

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